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NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Wichita, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that six individuals were indicted on January 13, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Wichita, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- ! **Marc Nickl**, 46, Wichita, Kansas, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud; one count of executing a scheme to defraud the National Bank of Andover; one count of obtaining money from the National Bank of Andover through the use of false statements; one count of inducing a former employee of National Bank of Andover to misapply the funds of the National Bank of Andover; all from September 20, 1999, through March 27, 2002. Nickl is also charged with one count of forfeiture of \$896,978.97 in U.S. currency, representing the proceeds obtained as a result of these offenses.

The indictment alleges that Nickl, from September 20, 1999, through March 27, 2002, while a customer of National Bank of Andover, induced a former employee of National Bank of Andover to use bank funds to pay checks that had been written on two checking accounts, on which Nickl was a signator, when these checking accounts did not have sufficient funds to pay the checks.

If convicted, Nickl faces a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy and a maximum of thirty years for bank fraud, obtaining money through the use of false statements, and inducing a former employee to misapply bank funds. The case was investigated by the FBI.

- ! **Charles K. Hyter**, 60, Hutchinson, Kansas, is charged with one count of embezzling or misappropriating money paid by the Department of Veteran Administration on behalf of a disabled veteran; two counts of making false statements to the Department of Veteran Administration; and one count of misusing Social Security benefits paid for the benefit of a disabled veteran.

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The indictment alleges that Hyter signed a fiduciary agreement on May 7, 1989, and agreed to serve as a custodian-in-fact for a disabled veteran. The indictment further alleges that Hyter was to use all money paid by the Department of Veterans Administration for the benefit of the disabled veteran and, if any surplus funds existed, these funds were to be invested on behalf of the disabled veteran. The indictment alleges that from an unknown date until June 16, 2001, Hyter embezzled money paid by the Department of Veterans Administration for the disabled veteran for Hyter's personal benefit. The indictment also alleges that Hyter made false statements to the Department of Veterans Administration about the use of these benefits. The indictment alleges that from an unknown date until April 30, 2003, Hyter received Social Security benefits for the disabled veteran and converted these benefits for uses other than the benefit of the disabled veteran.

If convicted, Hyter faces a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, on each count. The case was investigated by the Department of Veteran Affairs, Office of Inspector General and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger.

- ! **David D. Vanhoozier**, 47, Carrolton, Texas, formerly of Arkansas City, Kansas, a pharmacist, is charged with one count of unlawfully possessing controlled substances, Hydromorphone and MC Contin, which he stole from his employer, Graves Self Service Drugs in Arkansas City, Kansas, between December 2002 and March 24, 2003.

If convicted, Vanhoozier faces a maximum of one year in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger.

- ! **Keisha S. Hunt**, 27, Wichita, Kansas, is charged with one count of unlawfully using a social security number that belonged to another, with the intent to deceive Irving Realty, Wichita, Kansas, on June 11, 2001.

If convicted, Hunt faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General.

- ! **Mariano Bedolla**, 29, Dodge City, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with possession with the intent to distribute approximately 32 ounces (approximately 2 pounds) of methamphetamine on January 8, 2004, in Lyon County, Kansas.

If convicted, Bedolla faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Emporia Police Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Hendershot.

- ! **Moc Nghia Vuong**, 39, Burnaby, British Columbia, currently in custody, is charged with possession with the intent to distribute ecstasy on December 2, 2003, in Thomas County, Kansas.

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If convicted, Vuong faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.